Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 29 to 37 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 21, 24, 26 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, the claims as amended no longer include the "input" elements as referenced in the rejection. Therefore, Applicant submits that this rejection is now moot and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,081,342 (Nakai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,509 (Nomura).

The present invention concerns print processing for executing print processing upon exchanging print information with a device connected via a network. In accordance with the invention, print information generated by one device is submitted to another device, and a first print job is started. Whether a failure has occurred on the side of the one device during the submission of the print information is detected, and an abort or suspension of the processing of the first print job, which is currently being submitted, is determined in accordance with the detection result. The determination result for abort or suspension of the processing to the other device is reported. The processing of the first print job in the other device, for example a second device, is controlled based on the determination result. That is, the processing of the first print job in the other device is aborted according to receipt of the notice which indicates abort, and is suspended according to receipt of the notice which indicates suspension. In the other device, a

second job which differs from the first print job, is processed after the processing of the first print job has been suspended. The processing of the first print job is processed after the second job has been processed.

Turning now to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print processing method for executing print processing upon exchanging print information with a device connected via a network, comprising: a step of submitting print information, which has been generated by one device, to another device and starting a first print job; a detection step of detecting whether a failure has occurred on the side of the one device during the submission of the print information; a step of determining to abort or suspend processing of the first print job, which is currently being submitted, in accordance with the detection made in said detection step; a step of reporting abort or suspension of processing to the other device, which receives the print information: a step of aborting the processing of the first print job in the other device according to receipt of the notice which indicates abort; a step of suspending the processing of the first print job in the other device according to receipt of the notice which indicates suspension; a step of processing a second job which differs from the first print job, after the processing of the first print job has been suspended in said step of suspending; and a step of processing the first print job, after the second job has been processed in said step of processing.

In contrast, Nakai discloses an image forming system that erases suspended jobs. In Nakai's system, a request-receiver device waits in a wait state, in a case where obstructions, for example paper jam etc., have occurred on a side of a request-sender device. A timer is used in order to prevent the request-receiver device from waiting in the wait state for too long. If a predetermined time has passed, and the obstructions are not removed, a job to be

processed in the request-receiver device is erased (see FIG. 31, step S208) and the request-receiver device is released from the waiting state. Therefore, Nakai fails to disclose processing a second job which differs from the first print job, after the processing of the first print job has been suspended and processing the first print job, after the second job has been processed. Furthermore, Nakai actually teaches away from such first and second job processing because the system of Nakai erases the first print job so that it is no longer available for processing.

Nomura discloses an information display system and an image forming apparatus. However, nothing in Nomura is seen to suggest that which is lacking in Nakai, namely, processing a second job which differs from the first print job, after the processing of the first print job has been suspended and processing the first print job, after the second job has been processed.

In light of the deficiencies of Nakai and Nomura and as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are directed to a storage medium and system, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 11 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.
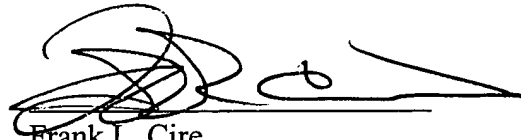
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each independent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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